CLAIMS:

1. A bulk bag having flexible side walls; a bottom wall configured to define, with the sidewalls, a generally rectangular shape of bag; and a pair of laterally spaced generally flexible sleeves associated with the bottom wall and each of which operatively receives a generally rigid tubular element adapted to receive a tine of a forklift truck, in use,amd wherein each tubular element has, at one end thereof, outwardly directed flange formations for preventing movement of the said end into the sleeve, in use, and means at the other end for inhibiting movement of said other end into the sleeve, in use.

2. A bulk bag having flexible side walls; a bottom wall configured to define, with the sidewalls, a generally rectangular shape of bag; and a pair of laterally spaced generally flexible sleeves associated with the bottom wall and each of which operatively receives a generally rigid tubular element adapted to receive a tine of a forklift truck, in use, and wherein each tubular element is made to a generally rectangular cross-sectional configuration and is composed of a flat sheet of material bent along the corners of said generally rectangular cross-sectional configuration to define said tubular element.

3. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 2 in which the flat sheet of material is an extruded sheet of plastics material having a series of integral spaced parallel webs or ribs of material strengthening the sheet wherein bends define the corners of said generally rectangular cross-sectional configuration and wherein the bends extend at substantially right angles to the length of said webs or ribs.

4. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 3 in which the bends are formed by heat softening the material along the lines of the bends and allowing it to cool in the bent condition.

5. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 3 in which the free longitudinal edges of a sheet of material bent to the said tubular element configuration overlap and define a double wall at one side of the tubular element.

6. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 3 in which the sheet material is an extruded polypropylene, polyethylene, or other plastics material having the configuration of two spaced parallel walls (11) interconnected by a series of parallel integral webs (12) of material.

7. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 2 in which one end of each tubular element has integral flange formations formed by bends in the material at right angles to those defining the tubular shape.

8. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 1 in which one end of each tubular element has integral flange formations formed by bends in the material from which the tubular element is made with the bends being at right angles to a length of the tubular shape.

9. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 1 in which the opposite end of each tubular element has a perforation through the material for operatively receiving a fastener attaching said opposite end to the adjacent wall of the bulk bag.

10. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 2 in which the opposite end of each tubular element has a perforation through the material for operatively receiving a fastener attaching said opposite end to the adjacent wall of the bulk bag.

11. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 1 in which the laterally spaced sleeves are formed within the general rectangular shape of the bag such that, in use, the bottom of the bag is substantially coplanar with a bottom wall of each of the spaced sleeves.

12. A bulk bag as claimed in claim 2 in which the laterally spaced sleeves are formed within the general rectangular shape of the bag such that, in use, the bottom of the bag is substantially coplanar with a bottom wall of each of the spaced sleeves.